



Volume 6, Issue 4

The Judicial Branch News

April 2011

Two Judges Appointed

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The *Judicial Branch News* is an online newsletter published by the Media Relations and Community Outreach Department. The newsletter is also available on the Court's Intranet site at:

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If you wish to contribute to this newsletter, please send articles, news items, photos or other correspondence to: karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov.

"Equal Justice Under Law"



The Governor has named Mark H. Brain and Danielle J. Viola to fill the vacancies created by the passing of Judge Pendleton Gaines and the retirement of Judge Paul Katz.

Judge Brain was appointed in 2006 as a Superior Court Commissioner assigned to Juvenile Court. He received his undergraduate degree in Physics from Iowa State University in 1985, and graduated from the University of Michigan School of Law in 1988. Judge Brain was admitted to the State Bar of Arizona later that same year. Prior to his appointment to the Bench, he worked for the law firm Fennemore Craig from 1988 to 2002, and the law firm Peshkin & Kotalik from 2002 to 2006, where he specialized in civil matters.

"Judge Brain has served very ably in Juvenile Court for the last 5 years, and I know he will distinguish himself in his future assignments as a judge," said Presiding Judge Norman Davis.

During the past 10 years, Danielle Viola has served as a Judge Pro Tempore for the Maricopa County Superior Court. In that capacity, she has presided over numerous settlement conferences and as a court-appointed Guardian Ad Litem, assisting children in family-court cases. She was a partner at the law firm of Snell & Wilmer, where she worked since graduating with honors from the Arizona State University College of Law in 1999. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from ASU where she graduated with honors in 1994.

Judge Viola's law practice focused on representation of small businesses and national corporations in commercial litigation, with emphasis on matters involving franchise, banking, insurance, real estate and general contract disputes. She has also helped lead several non-profit entities and organizations, including the Phoenix Public Library Foundation, the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law Alumni Association, Arizona Town Hall and the Sandra Day O'Connor Inn of Court.



Mark H. Brain



Danielle J. Viola

New Judge Q-and-A: Mark H. Brain

Q. What has surprised you the most about making the transition from a Superior Court Commissioner to a Judge? Please explain.

For me, it's not much of a transition because my juvenile court assignment has been to handle the same cases that judges handle (plus adoptions every other week). But I have been surprised by my sense of sadness that I'm leaving juvenile court. Don't get me wrong; I spent almost two decades handling civil matters as an attorney, so rotating to a civil assignment in May will be a little like coming home, and I'm looking forward to it. But over the last 4.5 years, I've grown to love the juvenile court. It's the one place where a judge can make big differences in children's lives. I'm really going to miss it.



Mark H. Brain

Q. You were raised on a farm in Iowa. Do you feel your upbringing has influenced your legal career?

Yes, in a couple of senses. First, it's a great way to get a good work ethic—planting and harvest seasons aren't "9 to 5" jobs, and you find a way to get it done while the weather cooperates. Second, it puts one in a mindset to get things done even if they aren't fun (if you've ever cleaned hog-houses, you know what I mean).

Q. What's your favorite quote?

"Every normal man must be tempted at times to spit on his hands, hoist the black flag, and begin to slit throats." H.L. Mencken, a noted curmudgeon. It's difficult, of course, to work that one into a conversation. And for the record, it's a rare occasion where I'm so tempted.

Q. If you had a day to spend with anyone (living or dead, real or fictional), who would it be and what would you do?

I'd spend a day motorcycling with Bob Higdon. Higdon is a self-described "recovering attorney" whose motorcycling exploits border on legendary. While logging over a million miles in the saddle, Higdon has: (a) completed the 2001 Iron Butt Rally (an 11-day scavenger hunt of sorts where the top riders will log over 10,000 miles); (b) rode from the Pacific to the Atlantic the hard way (from the East coast of Siberia to Portugal via Moscow, a route that involved horrible "roads" and bridges he suspected had been condemned by the last czar); and (c) visited all 3069 county seats in the contiguous United States (as documented by a photograph of a county courthouse in each county). To quote from one of his ride reports, "I know what this sounds like—Mark Twain overdosing on drugs meets Baron Munchausen. Every word of it is true." Higdon has stories to tell, and I'd like to hear them.

Q. Do you own an iPod? If so, what songs are in your playlist?

I do, but it doesn't get much use because the interface in my car is essentially worthless. It has roughly 1800 songs on it (I loaded the bulk of my cd collection on it a few years ago, so it contains rock n' roll, Motown, rhythm and blues, jazz, etc.). To the extent I make the effort to pull up something specific, it's usually something like Tower of Power or Bela Fleck and the Flecktones. I've been sorely tempted to buy a second one for the office and load it with my classical collection (there's nothing like a full blown symphony), but haven't got around to it yet.

Court Briefs

Operation Justice Captures More Than 250 Fugitives

A collaboration of federal, state, local law enforcement officers and Maricopa County Adult Probation conducted "Operation Justice III," a fugitive round-up in Maricopa and Pinal County. The U.S. Marshals Service in the District of Arizona coordinated this effort to coincide with National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

During this one-week operation, law enforcement officers acted as the voice of crime victims. The focus of the operation was to target sex offenders, violent offenders, and any fugitives with outstanding felony warrants. Operation Justice III netted 256 fugitives wanted throughout the Maricopa and Pinal County areas. In addition to arresting these fugitives, 16 weapons were taken off the street and nearly 23 pounds of marijuana was seized along with other dangerous drugs.

United States Marshal David Gonzales said, "Fugitives are a major obstacle to federal, state, and local law enforcement in reducing the crime rate in our communities. There are an estimated 2.7 million outstanding felony warrants in the United States. These fugitives, while on the run, commit a variety of additional crimes in order to survive. The arrest of these fugitives in Maricopa and Pinal Counties prevented hundreds of additional victims of crime and saved millions of dollars in property loss and medical care."

New Judges - Continued from Page 1

"Judge Viola was a partner at Snell & Wilmer who has a broad range of experience and skills, and she will be a great addition to the bench," Judge Davis said.

Judge Viola and Judge Brain will start their judicial careers on May 2. Judge Viola will assume a family court assignment at the Northeast Regional Center, and Judge Brain will assume Judge Joseph Heilman's Civil calendar in the East Court Building.

Judge Davis appointed Jay Ryan Adleman as a Court Commissioner to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of Judge Mark Brain. Commissioner Adleman will assume his Juvenile assignment at Durango on April 25.



Jay Ryan Adleman

New Court Security Director Appointed

Edward DeCoste was appointed to serve as the new Court Security Director.

He comes to the position with 35 years of law enforcement experience in county, state and federal government. A graduate of Arizona State University, DeCoste has served as Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal Washington, D.C.; Regional Director over an eight state area for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Marshal for the Supreme Court of Florida; Judicial Security Advisor in Iraq; a sheriff deputy in Maricopa and Pinal Counties; and a detective for the Crestview Police Department, Florida.

"Please join me in welcoming Ed to our Court," said Presiding Judge Norman Davis. "Let me also take the opportunity to thank Karen Westover for her tireless work in managing our court security department. Karen has done much to enhance the level of court security awareness, while also managing other critical court administration functions."

Superior Court Wellness

Making Lifestyle Changes

Two Superior Court employees are serious about making lifestyle changes through a local version of the popular television show *Biggest Loser*.

On April 15, Alyson French, who works for family court administration, and Sally Hawley, judicial assistant to Judge Scott McCoy, completed a 12-week fitness program called *West Valley's Biggest Loser*. The program, created by Professional Trainer Stephanie Folgeson, the daughter of Sally Hawley, combines exercise, proper nutrition and counseling.



Alyson French and Sally Hawley

"My main incentive was to lower my cholesterol and fit into some clothing that I have not worn for quite awhile," Hawley said.

For French, her motivation was living a long, active life.

"When I started the program, I weighed 324 pounds, now I am down to 295 pounds," French said. "I want to be a healthy wife, mother and friend. I'm embracing weight loss and a new healthy outlook."

Hawley and French not only lost weight through the program, they had fun in the process.

"It's fun, intense, cardio and strength training in a team environment where all the participants support each other," Hawley said. "I've also lost one dress size, and my spirits and nutrition has improved tremendously."

According to Hawley, members of the program met Monday through Thursday in Goodyear Arizona. The group would start with a ½ mile warm up. After the warm up, they broke off into smaller groups for a highly-specialized strength-training regimen.

"Everyday was a new workout, I don't think we did the same workout twice," Hawley said. "In addition to the workouts, we had bariatric doctors, nutritionists, weight loss counselors and inspirational speakers present seminars once a week on various topics such as food addictions, nutrition and stress management."

Both women are encouraged by the results. Recently, they completed a 5K race.

"I still can't believe I finished the race. When I started the program, I was sedentary. I had a hard time just walking to Change of Venue. I couldn't even walk around the Downtown Court Complex without stopping several times," French said.

To date, French has lost 10" off her waist and 1" off her neck, and her blood levels are now in the desired range.

"After I finish the program, I plan on maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle. I want to be an inspiration to others who are trying to reach their fitness goals," French said.

Submitted by Alyson French and Sally Hawley

Commissioner Investitures

Superior Court hosted investiture ceremonies for Commissioners Cynthia Gialketsis, John Doody, J. Justin McGuire and Terri Clarke in the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Auditorium.



Presiding Judge Norman Davis delivers the oath office to Commissioner Cynthia Gialketsis.

COMMISSIONER CYNTHIA L. GIALKETSIS Graduated from Florida State University with a B.S. Degree in Communications. She then attended University of Nebraska College of Law. For 15 years, she served as Deputy County Attorney at the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. She started as a Commissioner on June 7, 2010 and is assigned to the Probate Department.



Presiding Judge Norman Davis delivers the oath office to Commissioner John Doody.

COMMISSIONER JOHN R. DOODY joins the court from the Maricopa County Public Defender's Office. Before then, he practiced 25 years in civil litigation both in Arizona and in California. Prior to becoming a lawyer, he served overseas in the U.S. Marine Corps and studied Economics at Eastern Illinois University. Commissioner Doody earned his law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1982.



Presiding Judge Norman Davis delivers the oath office to Commissioner J. Justin McGuire.

COMMISSIONER J. JUSTIN MCGUIRE graduated from Boise State University in 1989. He is the first and only member of his family to obtain a college degree. He received his Juris Doctor from Arizona State University in 1992. After working for two firms over three years, Commissioner McGuire and a friend started their own firm. When his partner left the firm to become a Court Commissioner, he continued as a sole practitioner. Commissioner McGuire joined in Court 2010 and has been presiding over a family court calendar.



Commissioner Terri Clarke is robed by her husband.

COMMISSIONER TERRI L. CLARKE received a B.S. in Business Administration from Arizona State University. After working for several years as a paralegal, she returned to Arizona State and earned her J.D. For over 18 years, she served as a Deputy County Attorney with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, handling a variety of cases including homicide, child abuse, elder abuse, and capital case appellate matters. This fall, Commissioner Clarke will complete her seven-year term on the Arizona Supreme Court's Committee on Examinations, currently serving as committee co-chair.

News and Notes

Employee Satisfaction Survey Open Houses

Many of you participated in the Employee Satisfaction Survey late last year and earlier this year.

Although some of the concerns expressed derive from the current economic conditions and are not easily addressed, there is one important area that remains within our control: communication with Court Employees.

Senior Court management remains committed to communicating and to conversing with you. The Brown Bag lunch meetings over the noon hour were an attempt to do this – the drawback to the Brown Bag meetings were the need for you to give up a well-deserved lunch break in order to participate.

This year, we would like to change that format and make it easier for you to participate in the conversation. Rather than using your lunch hour, the thought is for our senior administrators, as well as some of the other administrators to spend a morning or an afternoon at the downtown or outlying court locations holding a series of informal, unstructured conversations with you, on any topics you choose.

There will be no agenda. Simply stop in while we are at the location, introduce yourself, tell us about what you do and how long you have been doing it, and share your thoughts with us. We think that this is a better way to ensure that we are hearing from you and talking about things that are of interest to you.

Meeting dates and locations will be sent out shortly.

Submitted by Marcus Reinkensmeyer
Court Administrator

In Memoriam: Leslie Fortney



Leslie Fortney

Leslie Fortney, 60, who worked for Criminal Court Administration for more than 10 years unexpectedly passed away. During her service with the Court, she served in many roles, the latest was at the Information Desk on the second floor of the Central Court Building.

Bridget Promoted to Assistant HR Director

Gary Bridget was appointed to the position of Assistant Human Resources Director.

In his new role, Bridget will assist with the overall management of Human Resources, and provide additional support to the director.

Bridget has been an integral part of the Human Resources management team for the past seven years. He served previously as the Employee Relations Administrator.

“Gary is uniquely qualified for this new challenge. Please join me in welcoming Gary to this new role,” said Presiding Judge Norman Davis.

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Danielle Impellizzeri Adult Probation Officer
Mark Fleming Court Recording Monitor
Renee Mobley Court Reporter
Christina Christel Judicial Clerk Associate
Dora Reyna Judicial Clerk Associate
Maria Abasta Juvenile Detention Officer
Allyn Smith Juvenile Detention Officer
Kendra Neal Collections Supervisor
Roxanne Morales Judicial Clerk Associate
Ana Lopez Judicial Clerk Associate
Pamela McGriff-Stoelum Judicial Clerk Associate
Endwy Tovar Marquez Security Officer II
Maria Valenzuela Security Officer II
Victor Wilkins Justice of the Peace
Kristin Wells Judicial Clerk Senior
Maria Vallejo Case Administrator
Mary Blanco Judicial Clerk Supervisor

10 Years

Alissa Williams Juvenile Probation Officer
Kayle Grayson Judicial Clerk Associate
Elisabeth Chesley Judicial Clerk Supervisor
Kerry Vogel Administrative Assistant
Tina Brown Judicial Assistant-Classified
Mary Ennis Judicial Clerk
Martha Mendoza Judicial Clerk Senior
Elizabeth Secakuku Juvenile Detention Officer
Tracie Moore Juvenile Probation Officer
Abelardo Corona Security Officer II

15 Years

Susan Groom Judicial Clerk Senior
Harriet Galbreath Juvenile Probation Ofcr Supv
Connie Scott Administrative Staff Supv
Mark Sielewicki Juvenile Probation Officer
Robert Spence Building Maintenance Supv
Ken Crenshaw Electronic Records Supv

20 Years

Carolyn Andrews Juvenile Probation Officer
Pamela Beasley Juvenile Probation Officer
Joni Lacaria Juvenile Detention Ofcr Supv
Mary Stuart-Bronski Business/Systems Analyst

30 Years

Brad Finch Human Resources Specialist
John McGuire Juvenile Probation Officer

Courtside Photos



Left to Right: Court Administrator Marcus Reinkensmeyer, CIO David Stevens and Presiding Judge Norman Davis.

Chief Information Officer, Dave Stevens, has accepted a senior management position with Maricopa County's Office of Enterprise Technology (OET). On behalf of the Court, let me take this opportunity to thank David for his years of dedicated service to the court. We are particularly grateful for Dave's leadership in developing the Court's iCIS case management system, while also supporting electronic courtrooms and other critical technology projects.

For continuity in our technology services, we thought it best to consider the availability of local technology managers with court experience to lead our Court Technology Services department. I am pleased to announce that John Barrett is returning to the Court to serve as our Chief Information Officer.

Many of you will remember John from his previous time with our Court (1981 to 2006), when he served as the Court's Chief Technology Officer, Director of Juvenile Court Research and Planning, Juvenile Information Technology Director and lead applications developer. In these various roles, John led the development and implementation of JOLTS, enhancements to ACS and implementation of the iCIS case management system. John's expansive career also includes service as the Information Technology Director for Maricopa County's nationally recognized Integrated Criminal Justice Information System (ICJIS), IT Director for Canyon Solutions, senior applications developer for the Arizona Department of Economic Security, and deployment with the U.S. Army's Strategic Communications Command.

Please join me in thanking Dave Stevens for his dedicated service and welcoming John Barrett back to the Court.

By Presiding Judge Norman Davis



A small delegation of judges and prosecutors from China, accompanied by faculty from the Phoenix School of Law, visited Superior Court's Therapeutic Drug Court. The group observed staffing with Commissioner James Morrow, and they later went into his courtroom to view proceedings.

Meet the Judicial Branch Recruiting and Staffing Team



Left to Right - Valerie Quintana, Jason Novak, Michelle Anderson, Mark Alver and Georgiana Rodriguezcrespo.

When it comes to the recruiting and staffing needs for the Superior Court, Juvenile and Adult Probation Departments, we are here to assist you. Mark Alver is our newest team member as the Employee Services Manager. As a team, we look forward to working with everyone. We're working on making our team efforts pay off by providing the best answers to recruiting and staffing inquiries. Stay tuned next month to meet more of the Judicial Branch Human Resources Department! For questions, please feel free to contact us at 602-372-WORK (9675).